



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Questions on Veteran Status (P- 20-22)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT VETERAN STATUS

- The Veterans Benefits Administration uses these data to establish programs for job counseling, training, and placement, with emphasis on disabled and Vietnam veterans.
- The Veterans Benefits Administration also uses these data to support the appointment of a disabled veterans outreach specialist in each state for veterans between ages 20 and 64.
- The Department of Labor uses these data to set standards for determining that government contractors have fulfilled contractual obligations prohibiting employment discrimination.
- Private organizations use these data to provide veteran services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT VETERAN STATUS

- Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996
- Veterans Cemeteries Assistance Act of 1999
- Veterans Benefits Improvement Act

QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

20 Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard? Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.

☐ Yes, now on active duty

☐ Yes, on active duty during the last 12 months, but not now

☐ Yes, on active duty in the past, but not during the last 12 months

☐ No, training for Reserves or National Guard only → SKIP to question 23

☐ No, never served in the military → SKIP to question 23

21 When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.

☐ September 2001 or later

☐ August 1990 to August 2001 (Including Persian Gulf War)

☐ September 1980 to July 1990

☐ May 1975 to August 1980

☐ Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)

☐ March 1961 to July 1964

☐ February 1955 to February 1961

☐ Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)

☐ January 1947 to June 1950

☐ World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)

☐ November 1941 or earlier

22 In total, how many years of active-duty military service has this person had?

☐ Less than 2 years

☐ 2 years or more

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE VETERAN STATUS QUESTIONS

- Questions on veteran status were asked in 1840, 1890, 1910, 1930-1990.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Answers to these questions provide specific information about veterans. Veteran status is used to identify people with active duty military service and service in the military Reserves and the National Guard. Census data define civilian veteran as a person 16 years old and over who served (even for a short time), but is not now serving on acting duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Period of military service distinguishes veterans who served during wartime periods from those whose only service was during peacetime. Questions about period and length of military service provide necessary information to estimate the number of veterans who are eligible to receive specific benefits.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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